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Letter from the Peer Review Editor

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Letter from the Peer Review Editor

May 11, 2020

Dear Readers,

It is my privilege to be writing to you today as the Peer Review Editor of *South Carolina Libraries*. Before continuing, I need to thank two groups, without whom this publication would not be possible:

- To our **contributing authors**: thank you for sharing your research, projects, and experiences. It is exciting to see and support what is happening in libraries around the state of South Carolina!
- To our **peer reviewers**: you are our anonymous partners, without whom scholarly rigor could not be upheld. You may be unnamed, but you are not unappreciated. Thank you for your time and feedback!

In the time since the articles in this issue were submitted and reviewed, however, the world has changed. As I write this letter to you, most – if not all – of the public and academic libraries across our state are closed. Much like many of you, I have been working from home for the past weeks, and now struggle to define what the “new normal” will look like. Challenges abound, and I am certain that many of you have been asking yourselves the same questions that my colleagues and I have been asking ourselves: How will we circulate physical materials when the virus spreads so easily? How do we keep our patrons and staff safe when they visit our buildings? Are there other services that we could be offering?

Right about now I feel like I could insert one of those “brace yourself” memes with Sean Bean, because change is coming. The good news is that librarians are a resilient and creative bunch who understand

the value of *community*. When we get involved, when we get together, when we communicate: these are the times we are at our strongest. Yes, change is coming—but none of us exist in a vacuum!

And so I would like to offer *South Carolina Libraries* and the peer review process as another possible community. If you try something new at your library in response to COVID-19 and are successful, why not tell your colleagues across the state and receive some bonus useful feedback? If your service model changes, let us know how your planning process and implementation worked (or didn't!). If you research the impact of rural public library closures on constituents, consider publishing your findings here; you will find an audience personally invested in your results!

Although I will miss the view from my work-from-home desk – the woods outside my house are a vibrant palette of greens, browns, and blues the likes of which you would be hard-pressed to find anywhere but nature – I know the day will come soon when I put on my mask and get back to the library. I'll let you know how it goes, and I hope you take courage knowing that we are in this together. If you would like to participate in the *South Carolina Libraries* peer review process, feel free to email me, and I can provide more information.

Stay Safe and Healthy,

Edward Blessing

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